from Bihar to the States like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the approximate number of labour migrates from Bihar in these States; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent the migration of the workers and there details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The The Government are aware that workers migrate from Bihar to the States like Punjab, Haryana & Delhi etc. for seeking temporary employment in seasonal activities like harvesting, rice shelling and work in brick-kilns and also in factories and construction work. Migration is also for better prospects and higher wages.

(c) As per information received from the State Government of Bihar, the number of labourers migrating to other States through contractors from 29 districts of Bihar upto May, 1994 was 9,524. According to the State Government of Punjab, the number of workers from other States coming directly to Punjab without going through any contractor is roughly estimated to be about 3.5 lakhs.

(d) The Government are implementing several poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes designed for acquiring income generating assets and for generating additional gainful employment for those below the poverty line. The outlay on these programmes has been substantially stepped up during the VIIIth Plan. It is, however, not considered administratively and legally feasible or economically desirable to prevent labour from migrating from one area to another for higher wages/better economic prospects.

Poor Quality rice/sugar suppled to FPS in Orissa

1386. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFARIS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rice and sugar supplied to the Fair Price Shops in Orissa and several States are of very poor quality;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether these are imported items; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure the availaibility of good quality sugar and rice to the Fair Price Shops?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHIR BUTA SINGH): (a) and (d) Central Government makes bulk allocaiton of key essential commodities for the Public Distribution System (PDS) including rice and sugar to all States and Union Territories (UTs). All operational aspects of distribution of commodities to the consumers under the PDS are matters under the administrative. jurisdiction of the State Governments/UT Administratíons Central Government issues stocks of rice and wheat conforming to prescribed quality standards. Levy sugar is lifted from the sugar mills either by the States/UTs and their nominees or by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). States/UTs are allowed to inspect all stocks before accepting the same and have the right to reject stocks not conforming to prescribed quality standards. In an operation of vast magnitude such as the PDS where millions of tonnes of rice, wheat and sugar are distributed every year through the network of more than 4.25 lakh fair price shops (FPSs) some shortcomings here and there can not be ruled out altogether. State Governments/UT Administrations have the authority under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against persons indulging in malpractices in the distribution of commodities under the PDS. Central Government has advised States/UTs to set up Vigilance Committees of consumers at the Fair Price Shop level to ensure people's participation in the

supervision of the PDS. However, no specific complaints have been received from the Government of Orissa or any other State Government regarding inferior quality sugar and rice being distributed through FPSs. Complaints about issue of stocks of inferior quality imported sugar for the PDS by the FCI was reported in December, 1994 by the Government of NCT of Delhi. FCI had replaced all the disputed bags of sugar. No other specific complaints about imported sugar or rice were received from any other State-UT.

Expansion of RPDS to Tribals in Kerala

1387. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has applied for expansion of RPDS to the tribals living outside ITDP blocks; and

(b) if so, the decision, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per present policy, only those Blocks which are covered under various area development programmes such as Desert Development programmes (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) are covered under the Revaped Public Distribution System (RADS).

Procurement of Foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana

1388. SHRI PAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of foodgrains including rice procured from Punjab, Harayana and other wheat and paddy growing States so far during the current year;

(b) how does it compare with that of 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the present storage capacity with Food Corporation of India;

(d) the quantity and value of wheat and rice lying in the open or without any shelter during the current rainy season;

(e) the quantity and value of foodgrains damaged by rains so far (State-wise) and how Government propose to dispose it of; and

(f) what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take for the proteciton and preservation of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (f) Information is being colected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Gloomy Unemployment Scene

1389. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the "Indian Express" dated the 2nd May, 1995 about trade union unhappiness over mounting unemployment;

(b) whether Government have also seen the report which appeared in the "Hindu" dated the 7th February, 1994 captioned "Job will decline, says Pranab.

(c) whether Government have also seen the report which appeared in the "Statesman" of the 28th April, 1995 captioned "Anti-Labour attitude of Government irks Sangma"; and

(d) what is Government's reaction to this gloomy unemployment scene?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The employment strategy in the Eighth Five Year Plan has been